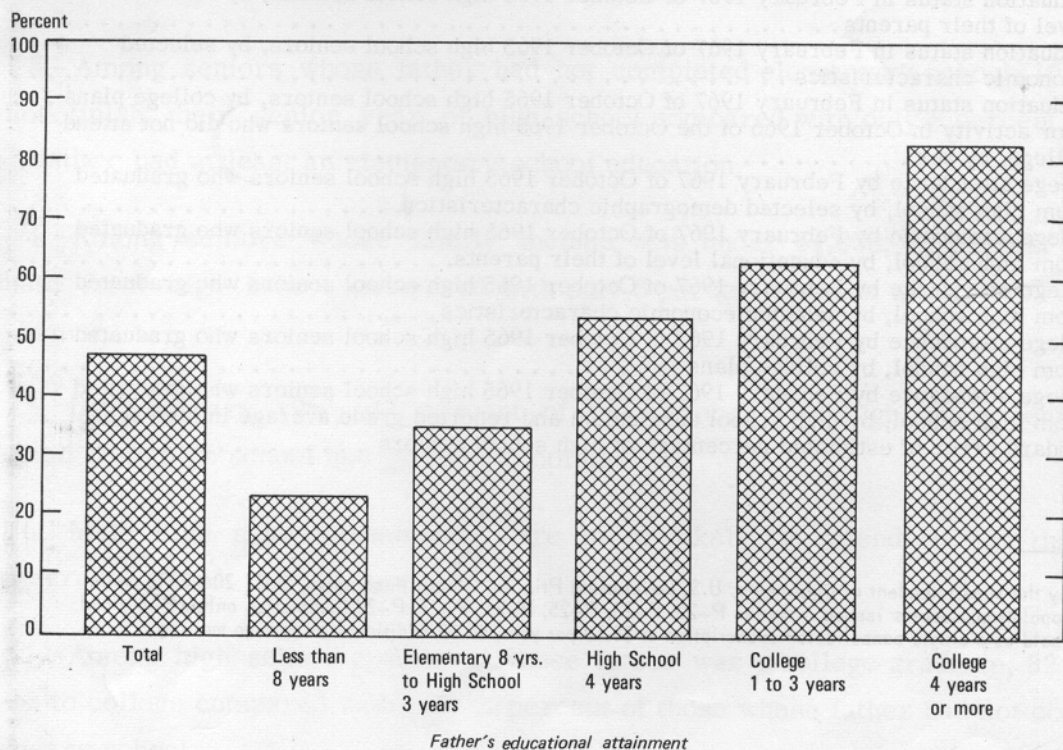


Population Characteristics

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FACTORS RELATED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ATTENDANCE: 1967

Percent of High School Graduates Who Attended College,
by Father's Educational Attainment: 1967



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FACTORS RELATED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ATTENDANCE: 1967

This report is based on data collected in connection with the October 1965 Current Population Survey on the social, economic, and demographic characteristics of high school seniors and their families and in a follow-up questionnaire to these same high school seniors in February 1967 which obtained information on their graduation from high school and their subsequent college attendance. This study was a cooperative project of the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Applied Social Research of Columbia University. Some of the highlights of the report are:

1. All but 8 percent of the high school seniors in October 1965 had graduated from high school by February 1967.
2. Senior girls were more likely to finish their senior year of high school than were senior boys.
3. Among seniors whose father had not completed elementary school, 15 percent did not finish their senior year of high school compared with only 5 percent of those whose father had at least an elementary school education.
4. Among seniors whose family income was under \$4,000, 13 percent failed to graduate from high school compared with only 6 percent of those whose family income was higher.
5. By February 1967, 47 percent of the October 1965 high school seniors who graduated from high school had gone on to college.
6. Male high school graduates were more likely to attend college than were female graduates.
7. Among high school graduates whose father was a college graduate, 82 percent went on to college compared with only 22 percent of those whose father had not completed elementary school.

8. High family income is associated with the likelihood of college attendance. Of those high school graduates who were from families whose income was \$15,000 or more, 87 percent went on to college.

9. Around half of those graduates whose grade average in high school was C+ or higher went on to college compared with only around one-third of those with a grade average of C or below.

The first part of the report describes the graduation status in 1967 of the 1965 high school seniors with emphasis on the characteristics associated with either graduating or failing to graduate from high school. The factors considered in connection with graduation status are metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence, age, race, sex, college plans, father's education, mother's education, occupation of household head, and family income. The second part of the report is concerned with the association of these same factors with college attendance among those who graduated from high school, plus the senior's high school curriculum and his reported high school grade average.

FACTORS RELATED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Nearly all students who reach their senior year of high school graduate from high school. Of the high school seniors in October 1965, all but 8 percent had graduated from high school by February 1967.¹ However, there were differences among the classes of the population in the percentage of seniors who graduated or failed to graduate from high school.

Demographic characteristics.--The seniors who resided in the central cities of metropolitan areas in 1965 were more likely to graduate from high school than were those who resided in either metropolitan areas outside central cities or in nonmetropolitan areas. Of those who resided in the central cities, only 5 percent failed to graduate from high school, but 9 percent of the seniors in the other residence areas did not graduate. The senior girls were more likely to finish their senior year of high school than were the senior boys. Only 6 percent of the senior girls failed to graduate, but 9 percent of the senior boys had not completed high school by 1967. The seniors who were 18 years of age or older in the fall of 1965 were less likely to graduate than were younger seniors--21 percent of the seniors aged 18 or older failed to graduate, but only 5 percent of those under 18 failed to graduate. The modal age of high school seniors was 17 years, and the high attrition of the seniors over 17 is consistent with their pattern of scholastic retardation. There is also some evidence that the Negro seniors were less likely to graduate from high school than the white seniors (table 1).

Family background.--The educational level of the senior's parents, the occupation of his household head, and his family's income are all related to whether or not the senior graduated from high school. Among the seniors whose father had completed less than 8 years of schooling, 15 percent did not graduate from high school, but among seniors whose father had completed at least 8 years of school, only 5 percent did not graduate. Similarly, among the seniors whose mother had completed less than 8 years of schooling, 13 percent did not graduate from high school compared with only 5 percent of those whose mother had completed at least the 8th grade (table 2). Among the seniors whose household head was a white-collar worker, only 6 percent did not graduate from high school, but among those whose household head was a

manual or service worker, 9 percent did not graduate. A comparison by family income shows that low family income is associated with failure to graduate. Among those seniors whose family income was under \$4,000, 13 percent failed to graduate from high school, whereas among those whose family income was \$4,000 or higher only 6 percent failed to graduate (table 3).

Table 1.--GRADUATION STATUS IN FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Residence, age, race, and sex	High school seniors in October 1965		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Gradu- ated	Did not graduate
RESIDENCE IN 1965			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Metropolitan.....	1,739	92.7	7.3
In central cities.....	676	94.8	5.2
Outside central cities.....	1,064	91.4	8.6
Nonmetropolitan.....	1,094	91.4	8.6
AGE IN 1965			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Under 17 years.....	417	93.6	6.4
17 years.....	1,852	95.8	4.2
18 years and over.....	563	79.3	20.7
RACE			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
White.....	2,524	92.8	7.2
Nonwhite.....	309	87.6	12.4
Negro.....	270	86.4	13.6
COLOR AND SEX			
Male.....	1,448	90.8	9.2
White.....	1,290	91.3	8.7
Nonwhite.....	158	86.4	13.6
Female.....	1,385	93.7	6.3
White.....	1,234	94.3	5.7
Nonwhite.....	151	88.7	11.3

College plans.--The seniors who planned to attend college after they graduated from high school were more likely to finish their senior year than were the seniors who did not plan to attend college. Of those seniors who planned to attend college, only 4 percent did not graduate from high school compared with 13 percent of those who either did not plan to attend or were undecided on whether they would attend college or not. There was a close association between the type of college a senior planned to attend and high school graduation. Those seniors who planned to attend a junior college only, and therefore continue their

¹Most of the school age youths who fail to graduate do not reach their senior year. There is an attrition of two youths before the senior year in high school for every senior who fails to graduate according to the report by James D. Cowhig and Charles B. Nam, "Factors Related to College Attendance of Farm and Nonfarm High School Graduates: 1960," Current Population Reports, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 32.

Table 2.--GRADUATION STATUS IN FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THEIR PARENTS

Father's and mother's educational level	High school seniors in October 1965		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Graduated	Did not graduate
FATHER'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Less than 8 years.....	291	85.4	14.6
Elem. 8 to high school 3.	862	94.9	5.1
High school: 4 years.....	746	96.0	4.0
College: 1 to 3 years....	306	96.5	3.5
4 years or more.....	296	94.1	5.9
Not reported.....	331	77.0	23.0
MOTHER'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Less than 8 years.....	244	87.5	12.5
Elem. 8 to high school 3.	797	92.0	8.0
High school: 4 years.....	1,106	96.2	3.8
College: 1 to 3 years....	233	97.1	2.9
4 years or more.....	165	94.5	5.5
Not reported.....	288	76.4	23.6
FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Mother some college.....	398	96.0	4.0
Father some college....	270	95.5	4.5
Father no college.....	117	(B)	(B)
Not reported.....	10	(B)	(B)
Mother no college or not reported.....	2,436	91.6	8.4
Father some college....	332	95.2	4.8
Father no college.....	1,782	93.6	6.4
Not reported.....	321	76.7	23.3

B Base less than 150,000.

attend college reported that their major activity in October 1966 was attending school. This was true for 20 percent of those who graduated from high school and for 29 percent of those who did not graduate from high school. These students who reported that their major activity was attending school could either still have been enrolled in a regular high school in October 1966 or they could have been enrolled in some special school, such as a business, technical, or trade school.

Table 3.--GRADUATION STATUS IN FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Occupation of household head and family income	High school seniors in October 1965		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Graduated	Did not graduate
BROAD OCCUPATION GROUP OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD¹			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Employed.....	2,562	92.5	7.5
White-collar worker....	1,029	94.3	5.7
Manual or service wkr..	1,371	91.0	9.0
Farm worker.....	162	94.2	5.8
Unemployed or not in civilian labor force....	237	88.7	11.3
Not reported.....	34	(B)	(B)
FAMILY INCOME²			
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Under \$3,000.....	309	86.8	13.2
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	192	87.0	13.0
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	524	93.1	6.9
\$6,000 to \$7,499.....	393	93.3	6.7
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	521	94.1	5.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	508	93.7	6.3
\$15,000 and over.....	169	94.7	5.3
Not reported.....	218	90.2	9.8

B Base less than 150,000.

¹Occupation reported in October 1965.

²Income for the 12 months preceding October 1965.

education for only two more years, were not as likely to graduate from high school as were those seniors who planned to go to college at a 4-year institution. Only 2 percent of those seniors who planned to attend college, but not a junior college, failed to graduate from high school, whereas, 8 percent of those seniors who planned to attend only a junior college did not graduate from high school (table 4).

Major activity of the seniors who did not attend college.--In the follow-up questionnaire of February 1967, the 1965 high school seniors who did not attend college were asked what their major activity was in October 1966, that is, the year after they were seniors in high school. Among those who had graduated from high school, over half (55 percent) reported that their major activity in October 1966 was working. But among those seniors who had not graduated from high school, only 31 percent reported that working was their major activity. Many of the 1965 seniors who did not

Table 4.--GRADUATION STATUS IN FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, BY COLLEGE PLANS

College plans in 1965	High school seniors in October 1965		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Graduated	Did not graduate
Total.....	2,833	92.2	7.8
Planned to attend.....	1,624	96.1	3.9
Junior college only....	349	91.7	8.3
4-year college only....	909	98.1	1.9
Both junior and 4-year college.....	367	95.5	4.5
Did not plan to attend or undecided ¹	1,209	87.0	13.0

¹Includes those who did not report on college plans.

Of all the male 1965 high school seniors who did not attend college, 22 percent reported that they were in the Armed Forces in October 1966 (table 5).

Table 5.--MAJOR ACTIVITY IN OCTOBER 1966 OF THE OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO DID NOT ATTEND COLLEGE, BY SEX

(Numbers in thousands)

Major activity and sex	Did not attend college		
	Total reporting	Did not graduate from high school	Graduated from high school
Both sexes.....	1,608	221	1,388
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Working.....	51.9	31.3	55.2
In Armed Forces.....	10.6	16.4	9.7
Attending school.....	21.6	29.4	20.3
Other activity.....	15.2	21.2	14.2
Not reported.....	0.7	1.8	0.5
Male.....	767	133	634
Percent.....	100.0	(B)	100.0
Working.....	52.4	(B)	57.5
In Armed Forces.....	21.6	(B)	21.0
Attending school.....	18.8	(B)	15.7
Other activity.....	6.7	(B)	5.5
Not reported.....	0.5	(B)	0.3
Female.....	841	88	754
Percent.....	100.0	(B)	100.0
Working.....	51.5	(B)	53.3
In Armed Forces.....	0.6	(B)	0.2
Attending school.....	24.1	(B)	24.3
Other activity.....	22.9	(B)	21.6
Not reported.....	0.9	(B)	0.7

B Base less than 150,000.

FACTORS RELATED TO COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

By February 1967, 47 percent of the October 1965 high school seniors who graduated from high school had attended college at some time since their high school graduation. An analysis of rates of college attendance in relationship to the graduates' demographic characteristics, family backgrounds, college plans, and academic backgrounds shows differences among population groups in the percentage of graduates who did or did not attend college.

Demographic characteristics.--The high school graduates who resided in metropolitan areas in October 1965 were more likely to attend college than were those who resided in nonmetropolitan areas. Of those who resided in the metropolitan areas, 51 percent attended college, but only 40 percent of those who resided in nonmetropolitan areas attended college. The male graduates were more likely to attend college than were the female graduates--52 percent of the male graduates attended college compared with 42 percent of the female graduates. Age was also an important variable in relation to college attendance. Of those high school graduates who were 18 years old and over in 1965 when they were seniors, only 23 percent had attended any college by February 1967; but of those

graduates who were 17 years old in 1965, the modal age of the October 1965 high school seniors, 50 percent went on to college; and 62 percent of those graduates who were under 17 when they were seniors in 1965 went on to college. The seniors who were under 17 in 1965 were younger than the average senior, and their advanced scholastic achievement is further reflected in the large proportion who went on to college. Race was also an important factor in relation to college attendance--nearly half of the white high school graduates attended college compared with only one-third of the Negro high school graduates (table 6).

Table 6.--COLLEGE ATTENDANCE BY FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Residence, age, race, and sex	High school seniors in October 1965 who graduated from high school		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Attended college	Did not attend college
RESIDENCE IN 1965			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Metropolitan.....	1,613	50.9	49.1
In central cities.....	641	53.4	46.6
Outside central cities.....	972	49.2	50.8
Nonmetropolitan.....	1,000	40.4	59.6
AGE IN 1965			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Under 17 years.....	391	62.2	37.8
17 years.....	1,775	49.6	50.4
18 years and over.....	447	22.7	77.3
RACE			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
White.....	2,342	48.1	51.9
Nonwhite.....	271	36.6	63.4
Negro.....	234	34.8	65.2
SEX			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Male.....	1,315	51.8	48.2
Female.....	1,298	41.9	58.1
MARITAL STATUS IN 1967			
Male.....	1,315	51.8	48.2
Single.....	1,258	53.7	46.3
Married.....	48	(B)	(B)
Widowed, divorced, or separated.....	-	-	-
Not reported.....	9	(B)	(B)
Female.....	1,298	41.9	58.1
Single.....	1,113	46.7	53.3
Married.....	178	11.9	88.1
Widowed, divorced, or separated.....	-	-	-
Not reported.....	7	(B)	(B)

- Represents zero.

B Base less than 150,000.

Family background.--The educational level of the high school graduate's parents, the occupation of his household head, and his family's income are all related to college attendance just as they were related to high school graduation. Among the high school graduates whose father was a college graduate, 82 percent went to college compared with 54 percent of the graduates whose father was only a high school graduate, and 22 percent of those whose father had not completed elementary school. Similarly, among the graduates whose mother had completed some years of college 82 percent went to college compared with 53 percent whose mother was only a high school graduate and 19 percent of those whose mother had not completed elementary school (table 7). Among the graduates whose household head was a white-collar worker, 64 percent went on to college, but among those whose household head was a manual or service worker only 37 percent went on to college. A comparison by family income shows

Table 7.--COLLEGE ATTENDANCE BY FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THEIR PARENTS

Father's and mother's educational level	High school seniors in October 1965 who graduated from high school		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Attended college	Did not attend college
FATHER'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Less than 8 years.....	249	22.2	77.8
Elem. 8 to high school 3.....	818	35.0	65.0
High school: 4 years....	717	53.6	46.4
College: 1 to 3 years....	295	62.5	37.5
4 years or more.....	279	82.4	17.6
Not reported.....	255	33.3	66.7
MOTHER'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Less than 8 years.....	214	19.1	80.9
Elem. 8 to high school 3.....	733	33.1	66.9
High school: 4 years....	1,063	53.1	46.9
College: 1 to 3 years....	226	82.7	17.3
4 years or more.....	156	81.3	18.7
Not reported.....	220	28.6	71.4
FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Mother some college.....	382	82.2	17.8
Father some college....	258	86.4	13.6
Father no college.....	115	(B)	(B)
Not reported.....	8	(B)	(B)
Mother no college or not reported.....	2,231	40.8	59.2
Father some college....	316	60.5	39.5
Father no college.....	1,668	38.6	61.4
Not reported.....	247	31.0	69.0

B Base less than 150,000.

that a high family income is associated with likelihood of college attendance. Among those graduates whose family income was \$15,000 or more, 87 percent went to college compared with 52 percent of those whose income was between \$6,000 and \$14,999, 36 percent of those whose family income was between \$3,000 and \$5,999, and 20 percent of those whose family income was under \$3,000 (table 8).

Table 8.--COLLEGE ATTENDANCE BY FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Occupation of household head and family income	High school seniors in October 1965 who graduated from high school		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Attended college	Did not attend college
BROAD OCCUPATION GROUP OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD¹			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Employed.....	2,370	48.0	52.0
White-collar worker....	970	64.1	35.9
Manual or service wkr..	1,247	36.9	63.1
Farm worker.....	152	36.1	63.9
Unemployed or not in civilian labor force....	210	31.2	68.8
Not reported.....	32	(B)	(B)
FAMILY INCOME²			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
Under \$3,000.....	268	19.8	80.2
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	167	32.3	67.7
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	488	36.9	63.1
\$6,000 to \$7,499.....	367	41.1	58.9
\$7,500 to \$9,999.....	490	51.0	49.0
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	477	61.3	38.7
\$15,000 and over.....	160	86.7	13.3
Not reported.....	196	54.1	45.9

B Base less than 150,000.

¹Occupation reported in October 1965.

²Income for the 12 months preceding October 1965.

College plans.--Among high school graduates who planned to attend college, 70 percent had attended some college by February 1967, but 30 percent of those who planned to attend had not done so. Among those who planned to attend college at the junior college level only, 37 percent went on to college compared with 83 percent of those who planned to attend at the university level only. Around 13 percent of the graduates who either did not plan to attend college or were undecided on their college plans when they were seniors had attended some college by February 1967 (table 9).

High school grades and curriculum.--High school grades and curriculum are related to later college attendance. Among those graduates whose reported grade average in high school was C+ or higher, 53 percent went to college, but only 34 percent of those whose reported grade average was C or below had

Table 9.--COLLEGE ATTENDANCE BY FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BY COLLEGE PLANS

College plans in 1965	High school seniors in October 1965 who graduated from high school				
	Number reporting (thousands)	Percent who--			
		Attended college			Did not attend college
		Total	2-year	4-year	
Total.....	2,613	46.9	16.0	30.8	53.1
Planned to attend.....	1,561	69.6	22.2	47.4	30.4
Junior college only.....	320	36.8	33.1	3.7	63.2
4-year college only.....	891	82.6	9.4	73.3	17.4
Both junior and 4-year college.....	350	66.4	44.9	21.4	33.6
Did not plan to attend or undecided ¹	1,051	13.1	6.9	6.3	86.9

¹Includes those who did not report on college plans.

gone to college by February 1967. If the high school graduate was enrolled in the college preparatory curriculum in high school, he was much more likely to attend college than if he were studying some other curriculum--78 percent of the graduates in the college preparatory curriculum went on to college whereas only 22 percent of those in other curriculums had gone on to college (table 10).

Table 10.--COLLEGE ATTENDANCE BY FEBRUARY 1967 OF OCTOBER 1965 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BY HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND REPORTED GRADE AVERAGE IN HIGH SCHOOL

High school curriculum and grade average	High school seniors in October 1965 who graduated from high school		
	Number reporting (thous.)	Percent who--	
		Attended college	Did not attend college
HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
College preparatory.....	1,164	78.0	22.0
Commercial.....	315	12.5	87.5
Vocational.....	202	14.9	85.1
General and other.....	882	27.5	72.5
Not reported.....	49	(B)	(B)
REPORTED GRADE AVERAGE IN HIGH SCHOOL			
Total.....	2,613	46.9	53.1
A.....	210	75.1	24.9
B.....	1,133	51.4	48.6
C.....	413	48.0	52.0
C.....	622	36.4	63.6
C- or below.....	178	25.7	74.3
Not reported.....	56	(B)	(B)

B Base less than 150,000.

PROCEDURES

This study was designed as a supplement to the October 1965 Current Population Survey (CPS). In the October 1965 CPS, the following information was obtained concerning the high school seniors: residence, age, sex, mother's educational level, occupation of household head, and family income.

A supplemental questionnaire left with the mothers of the high school seniors in October 1965 obtained information on their fathers' education. Another supplemental questionnaire left with the seniors in October 1965 obtained data on their college plans. In February 1967, a follow-up questionnaire was sent to the seniors to obtain information on whether or not they had graduated from high school and, for the graduates, whether or not they had attended college at any time since completing high school. In addition, information was obtained from those who had graduated from high school on their high school curriculum, average grade in high school, and marital status; information was obtained on major activity in October 1966 from those who did not graduate from high school.

RELATED REPORTS

Data on the college plans and personal and family characteristics of high school seniors in October 1959 were presented in "Educational Status, College Plans, and Occupational Status of Farm and Nonfarm Youths: October 1959," Farm Population, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 30. Data on college attendance of high school graduates were shown in "Factors Related to College Attendance of Farm and Nonfarm High School Graduates: 1960," Farm Population, Series Census-ERS (P-27), No. 32. These two studies were similar in scope to the present study. General statistics on school and college enrollment for October 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968 were presented in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 162, 167, and 179, respectively. The publication, "Characteristics of

Students and Their Colleges: October 1966," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 183, gives further data related to college attendance, including type of college, living arrangements, marital status, field of specialization, and college rank. Data on inter-generational educational mobility were presented in "Educational Change in a Generation: March 1962," Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 132.

Data on school dropouts can be found in "Characteristics of School Dropouts and High School Graduates: Farm and Nonfarm, 1960," Agricultural Economic Report No. 65, issued by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. In "Factors Related to College Attendance," OE-54023, Cooperative Research, Monograph No. 8, from the Office of Education of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, there is a detailed analysis of the characteristics of high school students by their college plans.

Statistics on school enrollment and educational attainment by social, economic, and demographic characteristics are published in the Subject Reports of the 1960 Census of Population, School Enrollment, PC(2)-5A, and Educational Attainment, PC(2)-5B.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The figures shown are for the high school seniors in the civilian noninstitutional population in October 1965 who responded to the follow-up questionnaire in February 1967. All but 8.7 percent of the 1965 high school seniors responded to the 1967 followup.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence.--The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1960 Census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday, as reported in October 1965.

Race and color.--The term "race" refers to the division of population into three groups, white, Negro, and other races. The term "color" refers to the twofold classification white and nonwhite.

High school graduation status.--Information was obtained in the follow-up questionnaire in February 1967, as to whether the seniors in the October 1965 survey had graduated from high school.

High school seniors.--Persons were classified high school seniors who were enrolled in the fourth year of a "regular" high school in October 1965, according to the Current Population Survey. As defined in the survey, a "regular" high school is one which may advance a person toward a high school diploma. Examples of schools which are not regarded as "regular" schools are private business and trade schools, such as television repair schools, beautician schools, and secretarial schools. If, however, such schools offer credits which are accepted in a regular school, they are counted as "regular."

College attendance.--For persons who were high school seniors in October 1965, information was obtained on the follow-up questionnaire on whether they actually attended college by February 1967. For those who were reported as having attended college, the name of the college was requested. The replies were then edited to include as having attended college only those persons who attended a "regular" college, that is, one where credits are given that may lead to a degree.

College plans.--Information was obtained from the supplemental questionnaire to the high school seniors in October 1965 on whether they planned to attend college, and, if so, the type of college they planned to attend (2-year, 4-year, or both). A student was classified as "planning to attend" if he definitely or probably planned to attend a 2-year college only, a 4-year college only, or both a 2-year and a 4-year college. He was classified as "not planning to attend" if he definitely planned not to attend, was undecided (a "don't know" response), or did not respond.

Type of high school curriculum.--This item, included in the 1967 follow-up questionnaire, referred to the major type of high school curriculum in which the student had been enrolled. Response categories permitted specification of the following types of curriculums: College preparatory (academic), commercial (business), vocational, and general or other types of curriculum.

Reported grade average.--Data on average grade in high school were based on average letter mark during the 9th to 12th grades as reported by the student himself in the February 1967 followup.

Major activity.--In the February 1967 follow-up questionnaire, the high school seniors who either had not graduated from high school or, if they had graduated, had not attended college, were asked which of the following was their major activity in October 1966: working, looking for work, keeping house, in Armed Forces, attending school, or other. In this report, those looking for work and keeping house are included in the "other" category.

Marital status.--Current marital status at the time of the February 1967 follow-up survey was asked of high school graduates. The "single" category refers to those who were never married.

Head of household.--One person in each household is designated as the "head." The number of heads, therefore, is equal to the number of households. The

head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the group. Married women are not classified as heads if their husbands are living with them at the time of the survey.

Years of school completed.--Data on years of school completed were collected for parents of the high school seniors. The data for mothers were obtained from the Current Population Survey conducted in October 1965. The data for fathers were obtained from the supplemental questionnaire given to mothers of seniors at the time of the 1965 survey.

Occupation.--The data on occupation are presented for household heads and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were classified in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

The occupational categories used are combinations of the major groups in the classification system used in the 1960 Census of Population. "White-collar workers" includes professional, technical, and kindred workers; managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm; clerical and kindred workers; and sales workers. "Manual and service workers" includes craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers; operatives and kindred workers; service workers; and laborers, except farm. "Farm workers" includes farmers and farm managers and farm laborers. The specific occupations composing these groups are described in Volume II of the 1960 Census of Population.

Labor force and employment status.--The definitions labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed.--Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to

be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Labor force.--Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force.--All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Family income.--Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family, before deductions for personal taxes, social security, bonds, etc. It is the sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the 12 months prior to the October 1965 survey.

Rounding of estimates.--Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are based on the unrounded absolute numbers.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates are based on data obtained from high school seniors and their families in the October 1965 Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. In February 1967, a follow-up questionnaire to these same high school seniors obtained information on their high school graduation and subsequent college enrollment. The October 1965 sample was spread over 357 areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 occupied housing units were designated for interview at that time. Of this number about 1,500 occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 35,000, there were also about 5,000 sample units which were visited but were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates.--Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figure that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages

are 50 percent or more. Table 11 contains the standard errors of estimated percentages.

Illustration of the use of table of standard errors.--Table 1 of this report shows that 7.8 percent of October 1965 high school seniors did not graduate. Table 11 shows the standard error of 7.8 percent on a base of 2,833,000 to be approximately 0.7 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 7.8 percent would be within 0.7 percent of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 1.4 percent of a census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be between 6.4 and 9.2 percent.

Table 11.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE
OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)					
	500	750	1,000	2,000	2,500	3,000
2 or 98.....	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
5 or 95.....	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
10 or 90.....	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
25 or 75.....	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2
50.....	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4

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